

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Todd Akin (R-Mo.), Ranking Member of the House Armed Services Seapower & Expeditionary Forces Subcommittee, today applauded the signing of H.R. 6102 by President Obama. This measure, sponsored by Akin and Rep. Gene Taylor (D-MS) authorizes the Navy to enter into a multiyear procurement contract for 124 F/A-18E/F/G aircraft, saving the Navy and taxpayers almost \$600 million.

Akin released the following statement:

“This is a great win for the Navy, the St Louis region, and American taxpayers. This bill is an example of how conservative principles of sound fiscal policy can have a positive federal spending, our national security, and our regional employment base. This bill will save over half a billion dollars in taxpayer money while providing vital stability to the fine Americans who build these planes in St. Louis and across the country. Once again, I want to thank Congressman Taylor for his bipartisan leadership and steadfast support on this issue. “

“While this legislation is a vital first step, there is more work to be done. An alarming number of F/A-18’s in the Navy and Marine Corps are nearing the end of their service life. Consequently, the Department of the Navy faces a looming gap in the number of fighters available to fill the decks of our aircraft carriers.

America’s national security strategy depends on our ability to project credible power around the globe. The Carrier Strike Group, able to reach around the world at a moment’s notice, is foundational to the success of that strategy.

Military readiness requires adequate naval aviation.”

Akin has been championing an F/A-18 multiyear contract for more than two years as something that benefits taxpayers and the Navy. In 2008, Akin inserted language into the *Defense Authorization Act*

requiring the Department of Defense to report to Congress on the potential cost savings of a multiyear contract for F/A-18's. In 2009, Congressman Akin successfully added an amendment to the

*Defense Authorization Act*

giving the Navy authority to enter into a multiyear contract for F/A-18's. In 2010, Congressman Akin added an amendment to the House-passed

*Defense Authorization Act*

adding eight additional F/A-18's to help address the Navy's looming fighter shortfall.

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